

The resolution (S. Res. 88) and its preamble were agreed to en bloc.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 88

Whereas the United States played a critical role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which outlines the universal rights promoted and protected by the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Commission is the most important and visible international entity dealing with the promotion and protection of universal human rights and is the main policy-making entity dealing with human rights issues within the United Nations;

Whereas the 53 member governments of the United Nations Human Rights Commission prepare studies, make recommendations, draft international human rights conventions and declarations, investigate allegations of human rights violations, and handle communications relating to human rights;

Whereas the United States has held a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Commission since its creation in 1947;

Whereas the United States has worked in the United Nations Human Rights Commission for 54 years to improve respect for human rights throughout the world;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted significant resolutions condemning ongoing human rights abuses in Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Chechnya, Congo, Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Rwanda, Burma, and Sierra Leone in April, 2001, with the support of the United States;

Whereas, on May 3, 2001, the United States was not re-elected to membership in the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas some of the countries elected to the United Nations Human Rights Commission have been the subject of resolutions by the Commission citing them for human rights abuses; and

Whereas it is important for the United States to be a member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in order to promote human rights worldwide most effectively: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States has made important contributions to the United Nations Human Rights Commission for the past 54 years;

(2) the recent loss of membership of the United States on the United Nations Human Rights Commission is a setback for human rights throughout the world; and

(3) the Administration should work with the European allies of the United States and other nations to restore the membership of the United States on the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

ALLOWING RED CROSS VISITATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 51, S. Con. Res. 35.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) expressing sense of Congress that Lebanon, Syria and Iran should allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the four Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and

Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) and its preamble were agreed to en bloc.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 35

Whereas on October 7, 2000, Hezbollah units, in clear violation of international law, crossed Lebanon's international border and kidnapped three Israeli soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad;

Whereas on October 15, 2000, Hezbollah announced that it had abducted a fourth Israeli, Elchanan Tannenbaum;

Whereas these captives are being held by Hezbollah in Lebanon;

Whereas the 2000 Department of State report on foreign terrorist organizations stated that Hezbollah receives substantial amounts of financial assistance, training, weapons, explosives, and political, diplomatic, and organizational assistance from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Syria, Lebanon, and Iran voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has made numerous attempts to gain access to assess the condition of these prisoners; and

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to these prisoners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the four Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

CONDEMNATION OF THE TALEBAN

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 52, S. Con. Res. 42.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 42) condemning the Taleban for their discriminatory policies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 42) and the preamble were agreed to en bloc.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 42

Whereas the Taleban militia took power in Afghanistan in 1996, and now rules over 90 percent of the country;

Whereas, under Taleban rule, most political, civil, and human rights are denied to the Afghan people;

Whereas women, minorities, and children suffer disproportionately under Taleban rule;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices, violence against women and girls in Afghanistan occurs frequently, including beatings, rapes, forced marriages, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings;

Whereas Taleban edicts isolate Muslim and non-Muslim minorities, and will require the thousands of Hindus living in Taleban-ruled Afghanistan to wear identity labels on their clothing, singling out these minorities for discrimination and harsh treatment;

Whereas Taleban forces have targeted ethnic Shiite Hazaras, many of whom have been massacred, while those who have survived, are denied relief and discriminated against for their religious beliefs;

Whereas non-Muslim religious symbols are banned, and earlier this year Taleban forces obliterated 2 ancient statues of Buddha, claiming they were idolatrous symbols;

Whereas Afghanistan is currently suffering from its worst drought in 3 decades, affecting almost one-half of Afghanistan's 21,000,000 population, with the impact severely exacerbated by the ongoing civil war and Taleban policies denying relief to needy areas;

Whereas the Taleban has systematically interfered with United Nations relief programs and workers, recently closing a new hospital and arresting local workers, closing United Nations World Food Program bakeries providing much needed food, and closing offices of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in 4 Afghan cities;

Whereas, as a result of those policies, there are more than 25,000,000 persons who are internally displaced within Afghanistan, and this year, contrary to past practice, the Taleban rejected a United Nations call for a cease-fire in order to bring assistance to the internally displaced;

Whereas, as a result of Taleban policies, there are now more than 2,200,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and 500,000 more refugees are expected to flee in the coming months unless some form of relief is forthcoming;

Whereas Pakistan has closed its borders to Afghanistan, and has announced that Pakistani and United Nations officials will begin screening refugees in June with a view toward forcibly repatriating all those who are found to be staying illegally in Pakistan;

Whereas the Taleban leadership continues to give safe haven to terrorists, including Osama bin Laden, and is known to host and provide training ground to other terrorist organizations; and

Whereas the people of Afghanistan are the greatest victims of the Taleban, and in recognition of that fact, the United States has provided \$124,000,000 in relief to the people of Afghanistan this year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the harsh and discriminatory policies of the Taleban toward Muslims, Hindus, women, and all other minorities, and the attendant destruction of religious icons;